

FRIENDS OF OUR NEW HOSPITAL
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Our Hospital Project – Last Chance

Friends of Our New Hospital are urging the States Assembly to approve the Amendment to the Council of Ministers Proposition “Our Hospital – Budget, Financing and Land Assembly” (P.80 2021 Amendment 2) lodged by the Future Hospital Review Panel on Tuesday. If approved, the Panel’s Amendment will limit the Our Hospital project budget to £550 million and borrowing to £400 million.

Peter Funk, Interim Chair of the Friends of the New Hospital, said:

“The Friends of Our New Hospital strongly support the Island’s need for a new hospital. But Senator Farnham and the Political Oversight Group he heads have completely lost control of the project. The budget proposed by Proposition P.80 has shot up from £466 million to £804.5 million without explanation and includes excessive contingencies, overheads, contractor profit and related costs that are unjustifiable. In addition, the Political Oversight Group wants to burden us all with £756 million in debt to pay for it. Approving the Future Hospital Review Panel’s amendment is the last chance for the Assembly to bring the Our Hospital Project under sensible control.”

The Friends have noted that in evidence given to the Future Hospital Review Panel, Senator Farnham has confirmed that the build cost of the new hospital will be £301.3 million. The Senator cites further expenditure of some £179.5 million for Hospital equipment, Land acquisition, Westmount Road improvements, the ROK-FCC pre-construction agreement and related costs which makes a total of £480.8 million. The question the Assembly now must ask is what is the justification for the extra £320 million plus making up the total of £804.5 million requested by Proposition P.80?

Peter Funk commented further:

“Delivery of the Our Hospital project will not be delayed if the Assembly approves the Future Hospital Review Panel’s amendment. Present plans for the new hospital at Overdale can proceed although money could be saved by cutting back on plans for Westmount Road and other expenditure. The application for Planning Consent can proceed and the project advanced. The Political Oversight Group can reduce the financial risks in the project by arranging an agreed price contract with a contractor. The Island can have the hospital we need at the right price but the only way this will be achieved at this late stage is for the Assembly to vote yes when considering the Hospital Review Panel’s amendment.”

The Friends of Our New Hospital are encouraging the public to contact their Assembly representatives to urge them to support the Future Hospital Review Panel’s amendment. They also plan to hold public rallies in favour of the amendment and other action on the 2nd and 5th of October.

For further Information please contact:

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